

**Town of Arlington Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
Symmes Transportation Subcommittee (STS)
Thursday, January 27, 2005**

Town Hall Annex First floor Conference Room, 5:45 PM

STS members present: Ed Starr (Chair), Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jeff Maxtutis, Kevin O'Brien & Scott Smith

Others present: Patrick McMahon & Jake Upton (Symmes Redevelopment Associates), Jim Danila & Jane Howard (Howard/Stein-Hudson), Sandi Bourgeois, Terry Dash, Elaine Duffy & Erik Moore (Symmes Neighbors)

Administration

The minutes of January 13, 2005 were approved. The next STS meeting was set for Thursday, February 10, 2005.

Feasibility of Westbound Right-Turn Pocket

Jim Danila distributed a set of scale plans of Summer Street between Hemlock Street and Oak Hill Drive illustrating traffic queues for five conditions: existing, no-build, build, build w/right turn pocket, and build w/right turn pocket & signal at Grove-Oak Hill. The four plans illustrated the 50th and 95th percentile queuing for both the morning and evening peak hours. Projected traffic queues were calculated using a 200' right turn pocket, 1/2% per year increase on Summer Street (for a 3.1% total increase), a one-way access at Woodside Lane (into the site), a 40,000 sf medical office building, and a 20 second concurrent signal phase (per 110-120 second cycle) for the Grove-Oak Hill signal.

Discussion of the queuing results was focused on the signal at Grove-Oak Hill. Jim Danila and Jane Howard argued that this signal was not of benefit to the Summer Street corridor and expressed the opinion that the need for the signal was outside the realm of the Symmes redevelopment project. Subcommittee members cited concerns over long queues blocking roadways already experiencing safety problems. Elaine Duffy pointed out that the location of the existing westbound stop line on Summer Street at Brattle Street was incorrect on the plans.

Discussion of Task 3 Analyses

Scott Smith distributed a draft application matrix for the Woodside Lane / Hospital Road access decision criteria. The matrix applies criteria in four categories (safety, mobility, equity and environment & public health) to three options for the access (open, closed and one-way). It was suggested that criteria be added in the safety and equity categories regarding Oak Hill Drive and a criterion be added in the mobility category regarding pedestrians and cyclists. Scott agreed to make the additions. Terry Dash asked if the criteria would be weighted; Scott responded that he expected they would be.

Discussion of Task 4 Items

Elisabeth Carr-Jones and Jeff Maxtutis agreed to assemble a working group to address bicycle and pedestrian issues in the Symmes neighborhood in order to report initial findings at the next scheduled meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Handouts:

Agenda - from Ed Starr

Minutes of January 13, 2005 STS meeting - from Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Set of plans showing Summer Street traffic queuing - from Jim Danila

Application of decision criteria to the Woodside Ln / Hospital Rd access - from Scott Smith